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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

BY CABLE

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Repair and Reconstruction of Lanchou-Mienyang Highway

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1. In May 1952 an engineering staff and laborers were mobilized to begin work on the repair and reconstruction of the Lanchou (103-41, 36-03)-Mienyang (104-46, 31-29) highway. Lack of funds and manpower had prevented an earlier start. In early November major repairs on the Lanchou-Wutu (104-54, 33-26) stretch had been completed. At that time the Kansu Government mobilized 8,000 civilian laborers for work on the highway. The entire project is to be completed by February 1953.
2. This road runs from Lanchou to Lint'ao (103-52, 35-21), Minhsien (104-01, 34-29), Hsiku (104-22, 33-48), Wutu, Wehsien (104-41, 32-58), P'ingwu (104-35, 32-25), and Mienyang, where it connects with the T'ienshui (105-28, 34-36)-Ch'engtu (104-04, 30-40) highway.
3. The repair specifications are the Ministry of Communications' standards for a second-class highway, i.e. gravel surface, semi-permanent bridges, and a road capacity of at least five metric tons.

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Comment. The completed highway will facilitate petroleum shipments from the Northwest to the Southwest until full-scale operation of the T'ienshui-Ch'engtu Railway is begun.

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